

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the May 15, 2013 Meeting

Tim Mayes, Superintendent of Schools for the Bedford School District, welcomed Board members to Bedford High School. Board members had previously toured the Middle School and Bedford High School. Chairman Raffio said he enjoyed the tour of the Bedford High School and Middle School, and commented on the outstanding art work and the functionality of the campus. Chairman Raffio thanked Cindy for her passion and perseverance in helping making the school a reality, and thanked Superintendent Mayes for his leadership.

Mr. Mayes introduced Terry Wolf, Chairman of the Bedford School Board, Mac MacMahan, and Jim Scanlon, Bedford Town Councilors. Superintendent Mayes said the mission of the Bedford School District is to develop a community of learners who are intellectually curious, resourceful, and respectful of self and others. Academic achievement, through constantly improving standards, is the district's highest priority. Mr. Mayes said that growth has occurred in the last decade with an enrollment now of 4,459 students. He noted some district milestones. In May 2013 Bedford High School was selected as a 2013 New Hampshire Secondary School of Excellence; in October 2012 U.S. Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan, announced that Memorial School was one of approximately 219 public and 50 private schools in the United States selected as a 2012 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. The program recognizes schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of academic achievement. Memorial was honored as an "exemplary High Performing" school. The administration and staff of the Bedford School District believe that parents/guardians and the community are vital partners in the education of children. Without a strong relationship between home, school, and community, quality education is not possible. Several staff members did presentations on different programs and services that the Bedford School District provides. Three third grade students presented their science project "Amazing Animal Adaptations." They were McKenzie McCarthy, third grader at Memorial School, who presented on giant ant-eaters. Sophia Figler, third grader at the Peter Woodbury Elementary School, gave a presentation on dolphins; and Maggie Lewis from the Riddle Brook School gave a presentation on the Lemming. The enrollment at Memorial School is 461, Riddle Brook is 548, the Ross A. Lurgio Middle School is 760, and the Peter Woodbury School is 518. Principal Mike Fournier from the McKelvie School did a brief presentation on that school. Karen Maitlin, McKelvie math teacher, reported on the Math Excel Class where they worked on a picture of students and staff to fit into the initials MCK (for McKelvie Intermediate School) for the year book. Four students explained how they had worked on this project applying ratio and proportion concepts. Ed

Joyce, Lurgio Middle School Principal, spoke about how the district uses the Google Suite and the collaboration on a children's book. Sherry Schmidt, Lurgio SEED teacher, spoke about the advanced learner programming and curriculum. They have implemented school-wide Google sites and streamlined curriculum. Bob Jozokos, Assistant Principal at Bedford High School, spoke about the evolution of competencies at the high school. Three special education staff from the high school Social Learning program spoke about their program. Mr. Mayes said that parents are heavily involved in every school in the district and as a result all schools in Bedford have earned Blue Ribbon recognition for volunteerism.

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 11:10 a.m. at Bedford High School in Bedford. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Gary W. Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, Gregory Odell, Emma Rous, and James C. Schubert. Also in attendance were Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, and Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cindy Chagnon led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kay Shoubash, Lynne Gnaegy, and Michelle Grau were present and Kay Shoubash spoke regarding the Family and Consumer Science section in the draft Minimum Standards. Family and Consumer Science is listed right now in the initial proposal for Minimum Standards as a requirement for middle school, but not for high school. Sid Glassner spoke of his concerns regarding the Common Core State Standards and gave the Board his statement. Jim O'Connell, Leslie Want and Nick Want spoke of their concerns regarding the Manchester School District.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Update on Charter Schools – Chairman Raffio said that until the Board knows what the final state budget will be they cannot entertain new applications. Chairman Raffio said the Board is in favor of the concept of charter schools. This is a journey in the budget process.

B. Update of NH Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Waiver – Deputy Commissioner Leather said that the application process is almost complete. The Department has submitted answers to several questions the U.S. Department of Education had. We do not want to prolong the process for school districts for the AYP process. The deadline is getting close to let the school districts know. We have to validate the teacher evaluation process in the state. The Department wants to proceed on a different path with a strong commitment for the accountability system.

C. Update on Manchester School District – Chairman Raffio read the following statement: “It is clear that concerns are being raised about the conditions in the Manchester School District. It is the responsibility of the State Board of Education, working with the Department of Education, to ensure that every student attends a school that complies with the state’s curriculum and educational standards. With that in mind, the State Board of Education will continue work in its advisory role with the Department of Education to address the issues in the Manchester schools. We know that the leaders of the City of Manchester want the best possible schools for their children. That’s a commitment we all share. I can also tell you that the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are spending a lot of focused effort and time on the Manchester School District and are seeking a mutual agreement with the Mayor of Manchester and Superintendent of Schools on a District Improvement Plan. The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brennan, will be providing the Commissioner with an Audit report as soon as it is available.”

Dr. Brennan reported that the status of the Audit Report is that it will be presented to the school board on June 19 and there will be a formal presentation on June 25th. It will be shared with the Commissioner and Deputy as soon as possible. There will be a meeting next week to review the numbers arrived at for class sizes in the schools in Manchester with the data analysis person.

D. Update on Unity - Jeff Blaney and Judy Fillion from the Department, Middleton McGoodwin, Superintendent of Schools, Tim Ball, Chip Baldwin, and Bob McDevitt, from SAU #6, were present. Mr. Blaney reported that construction is moving forward but not as fast as it should. He has received a copy of a letter from the Fire Marshall’s Office that needs to be responded to. The letter is a red flag as these types of plan review letters typically take time to address. Mr. Blaney also reported while the school building will be new, it will be furnished with used lockers, furniture and gym floor. Superintendent McGoodwin said that he is receiving weekly reports on the progress of the work. He has contacted the Fire Marshall’s Office to set up a meeting to discuss their concerns. He is working on three plans in case the new school is not ready to open: Plan A open on August 20th; Plan B not open until September 3rd; and

Plan C is to relocate the students to the Claremont School District in the Disnard School with 77 students and the Middle School with 33 students. The Unity teachers will be with the students in their own classrooms. In early August a decision will be made on which plan to follow. Chairman Raffio said there is a disconnect between the Fire Marshall's Office and the Superintendent's Office. Chairman Raffio wants the administration staff to appear before the Board at future Board meetings and to continue the daily updates. Superintendent McGoodwin said there will be a face-to-face meeting with the Fire Marshall's Office to review their questions and concerns. Brenda Constantino, a Unity resident, is very concerned about the windows being installed and the performance bonds.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators – Virginia Clifford from the Department met with the Board. The Board needs to adopt passing scores for the three subtests (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators, formerly called the Praxis or PPST. The Praxis I assessment that we have used for a basic skills assessment for fifteen years will be discontinued in August of 2014. It is to be replaced by the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators. Passing scores must be established for the new tests. New Hampshire has been using the Pre-professional Skills test, also called Praxis I, as a basic skills test for credentialing since 1998. Educational Testing Service has updated the assessment to align with College and Career Ready Standards. The new assessment will be available beginning October 1, 2013. These examinations provide measures of content knowledge that include reading, writing and mathematics. They are designed to measure a teacher candidate's success within a teacher preparation program. Two pre-service educators and one superintendent from New Hampshire participated in a Multi-State Standard Setting Study at ETS in Princeton, NJ. Altogether, twenty-three states, Washington DC, and Guam were represented by 74 panelists in the multi-state study.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education adopt the following passing scores for the Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading (5712) – 156, Writing (5722) – 162, Mathematics (5732) – 150. The Core Academic Skills for Educators will be required beginning on October 1, 2013.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Initial Proposal for Ed 306, Minimum Standards for Public School Approval - Paul Leather introduced David Ruff from the New England Secondary School Consortium who is the facilitator for the Minimum Standards Committee. Deputy Commissioner Leather said the process should be completed by January 2014. Mr. Ruff pointed out several sections that the committee reviewed: Page 5 (23) and (24); page 21 (2) d. and e. and (d); page 22 (c) (1) and (2); page 31 (4); page 33 (c) and (d); page 34 (5) and (6) and (f); page 35 (h) (1); page 36 (6) a.; page 38 (o); page 39 table, (q). Mr. Ruff said that personalized learning for students will be flexible and comparable. There will be a shift from competencies for graduation instead of competencies by course. Mr. Ruff said that New Hampshire is held in very high esteem and regard across the country for the work it has done with competencies. Mr. Leather said the initial proposal is being presented to the Board today. There is the opportunity for giving public input electronically. This will continue through June, July, and August. There will be a public hearing at the August State Board meeting in Concord and another hearing in the North Country in September. The Oversight Committee for Accountability will meet in the fall and by November the process should be completed. The Minimum Standards Committee will continue to meet. Chairman Raffio would like an official response and reason why the Family and Consumer Science is listed in the initial proposal for Minimum Standards as a requirement for middle school, but not for high school. Mr. Ruff said this initial proposal has been reviewed by several people and there has been concern raised over local control. The Community College System strongly urges that math skills be raised with these standards. Emma Rous raised concerns regarding ELO's regarding costs and responsibilities to local districts and the language regarding psychologists change the language to parental involvement.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education adopt the Initial Proposal for Ed 306, Minimum Standards for Public School Approval and set its public hearing for the August Board meeting at 11:00 a.m. and another hearing to be determined in the North Country.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Conditional Approval for Manchester School of Technology – Deputy Commissioner Leather introduced Karen White, Principal for the Manchester School of Technology, and Thomas Brennan, Superintendent of Schools for the Manchester School District. Ms. White reported that MST had a successful year, 74% met or exceeded math and reading but only 50% succeeded in language. Parents are very involved with the programs at the school. They do have a PASS program with 40 students still involved. Superintendent Brennan said the Mayor had mentioned there are 9,000 classes in Manchester and they will be meeting to go over the figures. Mr. Leather said the Department is requesting conditional approval for the Manchester School of Technology for a second year. The MST was established in 2012-2013 academic year under conditional approval, another year in that category would build the evidence that is needed for a more thorough review of the school. Additionally, MST is an offering that is in addition to the other comprehensive secondary schools available to a Manchester student. It would be appropriate to review MST in the entirety of Manchester secondary school offerings regarding minimum standards and adequacy. The Manchester School of Technology will be included in the focus monitoring and adequacy review that includes review of the provisions for minimum curriculum and educational standards scheduled to take place for the Manchester schools during the school year 2013-2014. During this intensive review, the issue of MST being placed within the secondary school offerings of SAU #37 will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education conditionally approve the Manchester School of Technology for a second year.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no New Department Business at this meeting

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Conditional Approvals

1. Ed 508, Application for Certification – Virginia Clifford spoke to this rule. A vote is needed to adopt the conditional approval for this rule, to comply with the conditional approval for rule filing 2012-170 approved by JLCAR. The conditional approval is based on changes to the final proposal as discussed with the JLCAR at its April 19, 2013 public hearing. If we make the following changes, the Office of Legislative Services can determine we have amended the rules in accordance with the conditional approval and issue a letter to that affect. The conditional approval includes adding the language annotated in the rule to clarify the process when an applicant does not provide their social security number and chooses to have the department supply an alternative number in each of the 4 sections of this rule. Once reviewed by the Office of Legislative Services to determine the rules have been amended in accordance with the conditional approval and RSA 541-A:13,V(a), the Board may then adopt the final rule.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the changes to the text of the Final Proposal Ed 508, Application for Certification, to comply with the conditional approval for rule filing 2012-170.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

2. Ed 400, Approval of Nonpublic Schools – Virginia Clifford spoke to this rule. A vote is needed by the Board to adopt the conditional approval for Ed 400, Approval of Nonpublic Schools, to comply with the conditional approval for rule filing 2012-139 approved by the JLCAR. The conditional approval is based on changes to the final proposal as discussed with the JLCAR at its April 19, 2013 public hearing. If we make the annotated changes in the text, the Office of Legislative Services can determine we have amended the rules in accordance with the conditional approval and issue a letter to that affect. The conditional approval includes adding a new program (a) to Ed 405.01, Identification of Recognized Agencies for Program Approval, stating “The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) shall be the recognized accrediting agency.” Then making (a) into (b) and amending the text to read “Other accrediting agencies that want to be considered....”

Once reviewed by the Office of Legislative Services to determine the rules have been amended in accordance with the conditional approval and RSA 541-A:13,V(A), the Board may then adopt the final rule.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education approve the changes to the text of the Final Proposal Ed 400, Approval of Nonpublic Schools, to comply with the conditional approval for rule filing 2012-139.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

3. Ed 310, Daily Physical Activity Program and Ed 317, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils – Virginia Clifford spoke to this rule. A vote is needed by the Board to adopt the conditional approval for Ed 310, Daily Physical Activity and Ed 317, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils to comply with the conditional approval for rule filing 2012-155 approved by the JLCAR. The conditional approval is based on changes to the final proposal as discussed with the JLCAR at its April 19, 2013 public hearing. If we make the following changes, the Office of Legislative Services can determine we have amended the rules in accordance with the conditional approval and issue a letter to that affect. The conditional approval includes adding the language for name of reporting official and signature and date on the Ed 317-Fed form. It also includes deleting the definitions of body mass index and childhood obesity from Ed 310.02 and the reference to childhood obesity in Ed 310.03. Once reviewed by the Office of Legislative Services to determine the rules have been amended in accordance with the conditional approval and RSA 541-A:13,V(a), the Board may then adopt the final rule.

MOTION: James Schubert made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education approve the changes to the text of the Final Proposal Ed 310, Daily Physical Activity and Ed 317, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils to comply with the conditional approval for rule filing 2012-155.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS

There was no New Board Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Barry spoke during other sections of the meeting and did not have an official report at this meeting. Commissioner Barry did mention that Senator Stiles and Rep. Gile had met on HB 142 through the Committee of Conference and should come to agreement.

Deputy Commissioner Leather said that SB 48 relative to the waiver is now in the House. A few changes have been made and it will go before the full committee next week. Mr. Leather said the charter school budget is before Senate Finance. There are a number of questions on charter schools. Senator Morse, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, is looking at charter school funding and the State Board's responsibility. There are a number of recommendations that have been made in the Governor's budget and then by the House. Language that affects Charter School funding is in HB 2.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Raffio reported that the Business and Education Coalition did meet with the idea of focusing on STEM and college readiness. There will be another meeting scheduled in June or July.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of April 17, 2013 Meeting

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to approve the Minutes of April 17, 2013.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Appointment to Home Education Advisory Council – Christine Mukai – In Accordance with RSA 193-A:10, members of the Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC), shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Education based upon nominations submitted by the various organizations represented on the Council. Christine Mukai has been nominated to serve on the Home Education Advisory Council. Ms. Mukai's expertise and experience with the home education law will be an asset to the Council.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the nomination of Christine Mukai to serve on the Home Education Advisory Council.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Tuition Contracts

1. Sullivan School District and Keene School District Grades Seven and Eight – Sullivan does not maintain a public school for grades seven and eight. The Keene School District maintains a middle school for grades six through eight that is approved by the Board and is willing to accept Sullivan students on a tuition basis. RSA 194:22 permits a New Hampshire school district to contract with a public school in another district to provide a public education to its resident pupils in order to satisfy the school board's duty pursuant to RSA 189:1-a. Approval of this contract will permit seventh and eighth grade students, who reside in the Sullivan School District, to receive a public education in the Keene School District at Sullivan's expense. It will also make Keene School District's middle school the school maintained by the Sullivan School District, as set forth in RSA 194:22.

MOTION: James Schubert made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the contract between the Sullivan School District and the Keene School District for grades seven and eight.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

2. Sullivan School District and Keene School District High School – Sullivan does not maintain a public high school. The Keene School District does maintain a high school that is approved by the Board and is willing to accept Sullivan students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit high school students, who reside in the Sullivan School District, to receive a public education in the Keene School District at Sullivan's expense. It will also make Keene School District's high school the high school maintained by the Sullivan School District, as set forth in RSA 194:22.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education approve the high school contract between the Sullivan School District and the Keene School District.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

3. Goshen-Lempster School District and Fall Mountain Regional Cooperative School District - Goshen-Lempster does not maintain a public high school. The Fall Mountain Regional Cooperative School District does maintain a high school that is approved by the Board and is willing to accept Goshen-Lempster students on a tuition basis. RSA 194:22 permits a New Hampshire school district to contract with a public school in another district to provide a public education to its resident pupils in order to satisfy the school board's duty pursuant to RSA 189:1-a. Approval of this contract will permit high school students, who reside in the Goshen-Lempster School District, to receive a public education in the Fall Mountain Regional Cooperative School District at Goshen-Lempster's expense. It will also make Fall Mountain Regional Cooperative School District's high school the high school maintained by the Goshen-Lempster School District, as set forth in RSA 194:22.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the contract between the Goshen-Lempster School District and the Fall Mountain Regional Cooperative School District.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. TABLED ITEMS

There were no Tabled Items at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p. m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Virginia M. Barry

Secretary